

Maritime Academy Charter School



Celebrates



National Native American Month started off as an effort to get a day of appreciation and acknowledgment for the unique contributions made by the first Americans for the growth and establishment of the United States. The effort has now resulted in a whole month being celebrated for that purpose.

Interesting facts

List some interesting facts about Native American Heritage Month. Here are a few examples:

- In 1914, Rev. Red Fox James traveled 4,000 miles to Washington, D.C. to petition the president for a day to honor Native Americans.
- In 1968, California Governor Ronald Reagan designated the fourth Friday in September as American Indian Day.
- In 1990, President George H.W. Bush designated November as National American Indian Heritage Month.

Since 1990, Congress has authorized an annual presidential proclamation that designates **November** as National American Indian Heritage Month to encourage all people to learn about the contributions and cultures of the indigenous peoples of the North American continent. Such recognition, however, dates back further with state and organizational recognition of indigenous peoples days and commemorations occurring at the turn of the twentieth century. For example, Dr. Arthur C. Parker, a Seneca Indian and co-founder of the Society of American Indians in 1911, organized American Indian Day beginning in 1915.



American Indian History and Heritage Teacher's Guide

Put the power of primary sources to work in the classroom. Browse ready-to-use lesson plans, student activities, collection guides and research aids.

<https://edsitement.neh.gov/teachers-guides/american-indian-history-and-heritage>

Native Americans, also known as **American Indians**, **First Americans**, **Indigenous Americans** and other terms, are the Indigenous peoples of the United States; sometimes including Hawaii and territories of the United States, and other times limited to the mainland. There are 574 federally recognized tribes living within the US, about half of which are associated with Indian reservations. "Native Americans" (as defined by the United States Census) are Indigenous tribes that are originally from the contiguous United States, along with Alaska Natives.



Arts and Literature

Arts and literature that are significant to Native American Heritage. Here are a few examples:

- The writing of Joy Harjo
- The music of R. Carlos Nakai
- The artwork of Allan Houser

Joy Harjo ([/ˈhɑːrdʒoʊ/ HAR-joh](#); born May 9, 1951) is an American poet, musician, playwright, and author. She is the incumbent **United States Poet Laureate**, the first **Native American** to hold that honor. She is also only the second Poet Laureate Consultant in Poetry to serve three terms. Harjo is a member of the **Muscogee Nation** (Este Mvskokvlke) and belongs to **Oce Vpofv (Hickory Ground)**.^[1] She is an important figure in the second wave of the literary **Native American Renaissance** of the late 20th century. She studied at the **Institute of American Indian Arts**, completed her undergraduate degree at **University of New Mexico** in 1976, and earned an MFA at the **University of Iowa** in its creative writing program.

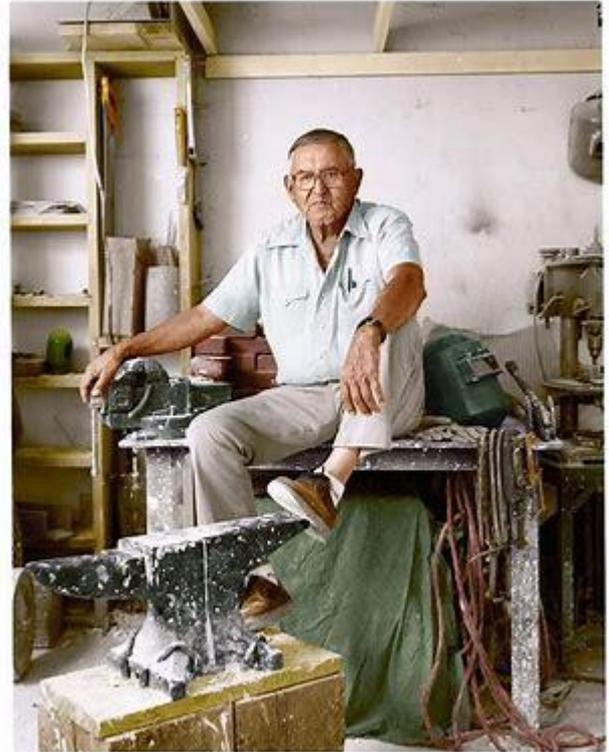


Raymond Carlos Nakai (born April 16, 1946) is a [Native American flutist](#) of [Navajo/Ute](#) heritage. Nakai played [brass instruments](#) in high school and college, and auditioned for the [Armed Forces School of Music](#) after a two-year period in the [United States Navy](#). He began playing a traditional Native American [cedar](#) flute after an accident left him unable to play the trumpet. Largely self-taught, he released his first album *Changes* in 1983, and afterward signed a contract with [Canyon Records](#), who produced more than thirty of his albums in subsequent years. His music prominently features original compositions for the flute inspired by traditional Native American melodies. Nakai has collaborated with musicians [William Eaton](#), [Peter Kater](#), [Philip Glass](#), [Nawang Khechog](#), [Paul Horn](#), and [Keola Beamer](#). He has received 11 [Grammy Award](#) nominations for his albums.



Allan Capron Houser or **Haozous** (June 30, 1914 – August 22, 1994) was a Chiricahua Apache sculptor, painter and book illustrator born in Oklahoma.^[2] He was one of the most renowned Native American painters and Modernist sculptors of the 20th century.

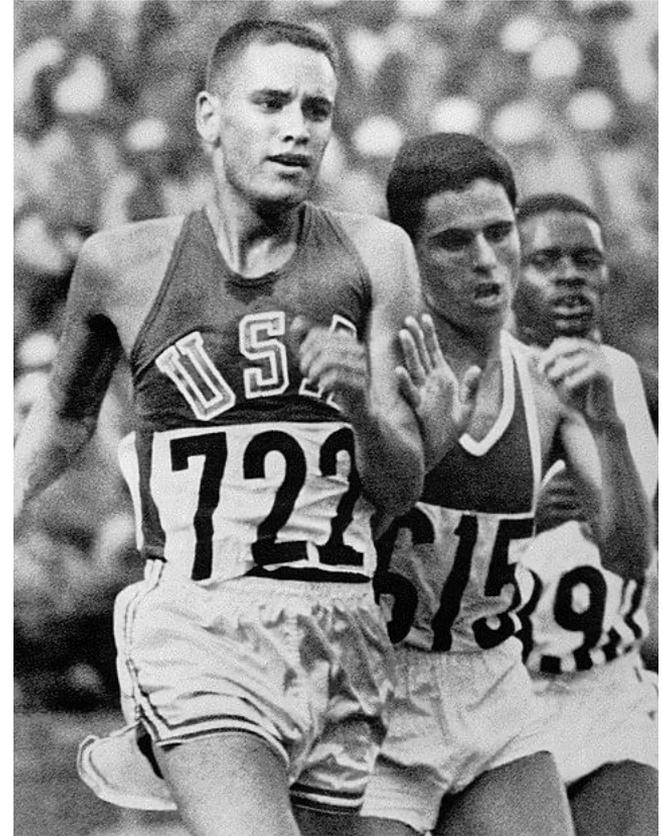
Houser's work can be found at the Smithsonian Museum of American Art, the National Museum of the American Indian, the National Portrait Gallery in Washington, D.C., and in numerous major museum collections throughout North America, Europe and Japan. Additionally, Houser's *Offering of the Sacred Pipe* is on display at United States Mission to the United Nations in New York City.



James Francis Thorpe (Sac and Fox (Sauk): *Wa-Tho-Huk*, translated as "Bright Path";^[4] May 22 or 28,^[2] 1887 – March 28, 1953)^[5] was an American athlete and Olympic gold medalist. A member of the Sac and Fox Nation, Thorpe was the first Native American to win a gold medal for the United States in the Olympics. Considered one of the most versatile athletes of modern sports, he won two Olympic gold medals in the 1912 Summer Olympics (one in classic pentathlon and the other in decathlon). He also played American football (collegiate and professional), professional baseball, and basketball.



William Mervin Mills (born June 30, 1938), also known as **Tamakoce Te'Hila**, is an Oglala Lakota former track and field athlete who won a gold medal in the 10,000 meter run (6.2 mi) at the 1964 Tokyo Olympics. His 1964 victory is considered one of the greatest Olympic upsets because he was a virtual unknown going into the event. He was the first non-European to win the Olympic event and remains the only winner from the Americas.^[3] A United States Marine, Mills is a member of the Oglala Sioux Tribe.



Joseph Medicine Crow (October 27, 1913 – April 3, 2016) was a Native American writer, historian and war chief of the Crow Nation. His writings on Native American history and reservation culture are considered seminal works, but he is best known for his writings and lectures concerning the Battle of the Little Bighorn of 1876.

Medicine Crow was a World War II veteran, serving as a scout in the 103rd Infantry Division of the US Army. He received the Bronze Star Medal and the Légion d'honneur for his service during World War II. In 2009, he was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom by Barack Obama.

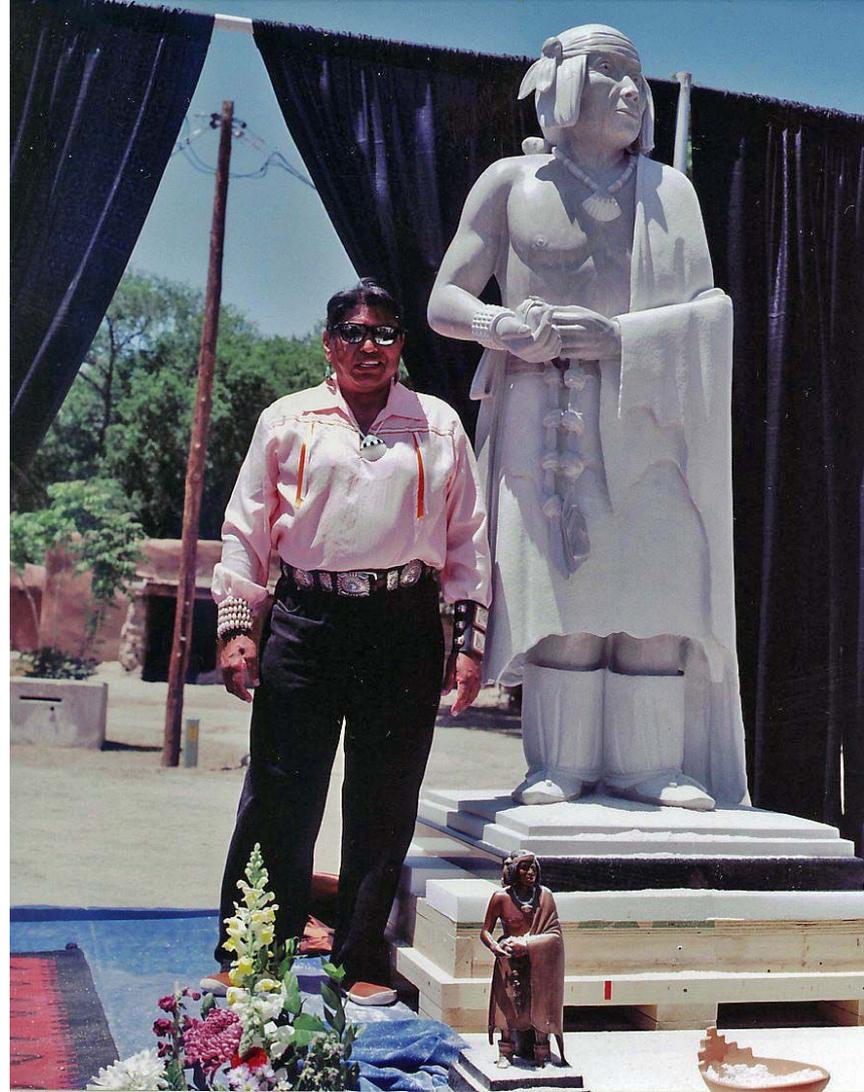
Medicine Crow was a founding member of the Traditional Circle of Indian Elders and Youth.^[1] He was the last war chief of the Crow Nation and the last Plains Indian war chief.



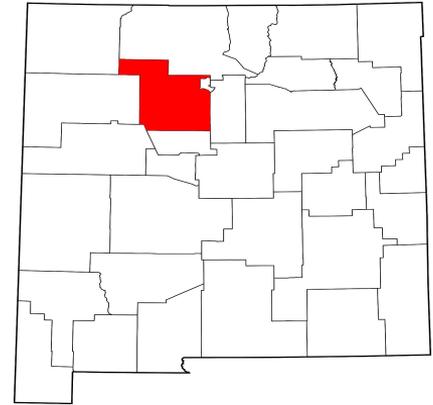
A Northern style
Men's Fancy Dancer at
the West Valley
Powwow in Saratoga,
CA, 2005



Cliff Fragua is a Jemez Pueblo sculptor and stone carver. He is the only Native American sculptor to have a work installed in Statuary Hall of the United States Capitol; it is the second of works representing New Mexico and the 100th and last of these works to be added. The sculpture is of Popé, a great Pueblo Leader during the late 1600s who united the Pueblo people and defeated the Spaniards in what is now New Mexico. Fragua traveled to Blount County, Tennessee to hand select his Tennessee Pink Marble block from the quarry owned and operated by the Tennessee Marble Company.



Jemez Pueblo (/ˈhɛmɛz/;
Jemez: *Walatowa*, Navajo: *Mq'ii*
Deeshgiizh) is a census-designated
place (CDP) in Sandoval
County, New Mexico, United
States. The population was 1,788
at the 2010 census.^[1] It is part of
the Albuquerque Metropolitan
Statistical Area.



10 Native American Inventions Commonly Used Today

1. Corn. It may be a crop, but corn was carefully cultivated by ancient farmers as long as 10,000 years ago.

2. Rubber

3. Kayaks

4. Snow Goggles

5. Cable Suspension Bridges.

6. Raised-Bed Agriculture

7. Baby Bottles

8. Anesthetics and Topical Pain Relievers

9. Syringes

10. Hammocks

In total, there are at least 28 state names with Native linguistic origins, and there are countless other cities, rivers, and geographic landmarks that bear names with a Native root. The United States government also has named military equipment after Native tribes, claiming that it's a sign of respect.



Alabama -Indian for tribal town, later a tribe (Alabamas or Alibamons) of the Creek confederacy.

Alaska -Russian version of Aleutian (Eskimo) word, alakshak, for "peninsula," "great lands," or "land that is not an island."

Arizona -Spanish version of Pima Indian word for "little spring place," or Aztec arizuma, meaning "silver-bearing."

Arkansas -French variant of Quapaw, a Siouan people meaning "downstream people."

Connecticut -From Mohican and other Algonquin words meaning "long river place."

Delaware -Named for Lord De La Warr, early governor of Virginia; first applied to river, then to Indian tribe (Lenni-Lenape), and the state.

Hawaii -Possibly derived from native word for homeland, Hawaiki or Owhyhee.

Idaho -A coined name with an invented Indian meaning: "gem of the mountains;" originally suggested for the Pike's Peak mining territory (Colorado), then applied to the new mining territory of the Pacific Northwest. Another theory suggests Idaho may be a Kiowa Apache term for the Comanche.

Illinois -French for Illini or land of Illini, Algonquin word meaning men or warriors.

Indiana -Means "land of the Indians."

Iowa -Indian word variously translated as "one who puts to sleep" or "beautiful land."

Kansas -Sioux word for "south wind people."

Kentucky -Indian word variously translated as "dark and bloody ground," "meadow land" and "land of tomorrow."

Massachusetts -From Indian tribe named after "large hill place" identified by Capt. John Smith as being near Milton, Mass.

Michigan -From Chippewa words mici gama meaning "great water," after the lake of the same name.

Minnesota -From Dakota Sioux word meaning "cloudy water" or "sky-tinted water" of the Minnesota River.

Mississippi -Probably Chippewa; mici zibi, "great river" or "gathering-in of all the waters." Also: Algonquin word, "Messipi."

Missouri -An Algonquin Indian term meaning "river of the big canoes."

Nebraska -From Omaha or Otos Indian word meaning "broad water" or "flat river," describing the Platte River.

North & South Dakota -Dakota is Sioux for friend or ally.

Ohio -Iroquois word for "fine or good river."

Oklahoma -Choctaw coined word meaning red man, proposed by Rev. Allen Wright, Choctaw-speaking Indian, said: Okla humma is red people.

Tennessee -Tanasi was the name of Cherokee villages on the Little Tennessee River. From 1784 to 1788 this was the State of Franklin, or Frankland.

Texas -Variant of word used by Caddo and other Indians meaning friends or allies, and applied to them by the Spanish in eastern Texas. Also written texias, tejas, teysas.

Utah -From a Navajo word meaning upper, or higher up, as applied to a Shoshone tribe called Ute.

Wisconsin -An Indian name, spelled Ouisconsin and Mesconsing by early chroniclers. Believed to mean "grassy place" in Chippewa. Congress made it Wisconsin.

Wyoming -The word was taken from Wyoming Valley, Pa., which was the site of an Indian massacre and became widely known by Campbell's poem, "Gertrude of Wyoming." In Algonquin it means "large prairie place."

Arts

Countless rock and cave paintings dominate the American Indian culture. Native Americans have been able to contribute to the arts extensively.

[FOUR THOUSAND YEARS OF NATIVE AMERICAN CAVE ART IN THE SOUTHERN APPALACHIANS](#)

This cave painting found in eastern Tennessee, depicting a **hunter with a four-legged animal**, is more than 6,000 years old -- the oldest yet known in North America. An image of a horned owl was impressed into the wet clay of Mud Glyph Cave, Tennessee, around 1300 AD.



Food

It will interest everyone in knowing that the edible plants domesticated by the Native Americans are now the principal ingredients in meals of people in not just the United States.

Politics and Government

The Native Americans had sophisticated social systems even before the coming of the Europeans.

Animals

Turkeys are a very prominent part of Thanksgiving celebrations in the United States of America but that is not the only animal that came from the Native Indians.

[Native American Relationships to Animals | Helpful Handout Educator Resource](#)

Cadets study Native American Cultures in Ms. Simon's history class. Visit the 2nd deck to preview the cadets' work.

